



Judicial Conduct Board
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
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Press Release

October 15, 2012

TO: Press

**FROM: James E. McErlane, Esquire
Chairman
Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board**

**SUBJECT: Appointment of New Chief Counsel to the
Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board**

The Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania announces the appointment of former Superior Court Judge Robert A. Graci as Chief Counsel to the Board upon the retirement of Joseph A. Massa, Jr., Esquire from that position. Judge Graci's appointment was effective October 1, 2012. Mr. Massa will continue to serve the Board until the end of the year in the capacity of Senior Counsel.

According to Board Chairman Jim McErlane of the Chester County law firm Lamb McErlane PC, Mr. Massa advised the Board in January of his intent to retire at the end of the year. The Board then began the process of finding his successor. "Joe Massa ably served the Board for more than 10 years and did so with dignity and integrity," said McErlane, "doing so during often trying times while having to deal with a severe budget crunch. We are indebted to Joe for his substantial contributions to the Board and wish him the very best in his retirement."

Chairman McErlane said that Graci's selection was an easy decision for the Board. "The process of replacing the chief legal officer of any organization can be an arduous process," he said. "When Judge Graci expressed his willingness to leave his successful private practice to return to public service as the Board's Chief Counsel, he made the process easier. His service as a member of the Superior Court, his experience as a prosecutor at the state and local levels for more than 20 years, his record of leadership and success in both public and private sectors, and his keen interest in preserving the integrity, independence and dignity of the judiciary, make him a natural selection," said McErlane.

Before assuming his current position, Judge Graci was a Member in the Harrisburg offices of Pittsburgh law firm Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC,

where he headed the firm's Appellate Practice Group. He joined Eckert Seamans, after serving on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania from 2002 to 2004.

Judge Graci is active in the Pennsylvania Bar Association and currently serves on the founding Board of Governors of the Bar Association of the Third Federal Circuit. He has served on a number of judicial committees and regularly lectures for a variety of legal and law-related groups. He earned his law degree, cum laude, from the University of Miami School of Law and his undergraduate degree from West Chester State College.

For further information about the Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board, see the Board's Website at www.jcbpa.org.

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